

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 22, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1762

Introduced by Assembly Member Villaraigosa
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Mazzoni, Shelley,
Strom-Martin, Thompson, Wayne, and Zettel)
(Coauthors: Senators Bowen, Murray, and Perata)

January 18, 2000

An act to add and repeal Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 13720) of Title 5 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, relating to peace officers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1762, as amended, Villaraigosa. Peace officer training: ~~mentally ill~~ persons *with mental illness*.

Existing law provides that the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training shall include in the basic training course for law enforcement officers adequate instruction in the handling of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, or both. Existing law requires the commission to develop this training and related supplemental training in consultation with appropriate groups and individuals having an interest and expertise in this area, and to include specified subject matter.

This bill would direct the Office of Criminal Justice Planning to establish a Crisis Intervention Team pilot project for the training of law enforcement officers and public safety dispatchers concerning the nature of mental illness and

appropriate methods of handling ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness* in order to accomplish specified policy goals. The bill would provide that these projects shall be established in the County of Los Angeles and in a county to be located within the ~~Central~~ *San Joaquin* Valley of California, and would also provide funding to the existing Crisis Intervention Team program located in the City of San Jose. The bill would provide that completion of the training course specified under this program shall satisfy specified training requirements of existing law, that the implementation of their pilot projects shall be subject to appropriation by the Legislature, *that the Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot program and submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2003*, and that these provisions shall be repealed on January 1, 2004.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section
2 13720) is added to Title 5 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, to
3 read:

4
5 CHAPTER 3. CRISIS INTERVENTION
6

7 13720. The Legislature finds and declares the
8 following:

9 (a) Approximately 40 percent of persons suffering
10 from serious mental illness will be arrested at least once
11 during their lifetimes. It is imperative that progressive
12 law enforcement agencies assume the responsibility of
13 evaluating situations, recognizing mental illness and the
14 need for treatment and ensuring that the ~~mentally ill~~
15 ~~person~~ *person with mental illness* receives the proper
16 treatment resources. *An emphasis should be placed on*
17 *assessment and placement of persons with mental illness*
18 *into treatment centers, where appropriate, rather than*
19 *incarceration.*

(b) Increases in drug and alcohol abuse and the release of ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness* from institutions have caused many to become homeless and increase the probability of violence and involvement with law enforcement.

(c) Lawsuits regarding excessive force and related community reaction are significant concerns for local law enforcement agencies, and traditional police methods, misinformation, and lack of sensitivity can cause frustration for both ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness* and their families as well as for law enforcement. Peace officers responding to calls involving ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness* may be faced with a lack of knowledge about mental illness, resulting in a fear of the unknown, and an increase in the likelihood of physical confrontation.

(d) *The continuation of programs, such as the MET/SMART teams currently operating in Los Angeles County, where a specially trained mental health evaluation team consisting of a mental health clinician and a law enforcement officer are assigned together to assist other officers with contacts with citizens with mental illness is an important aspect in handling these situations.*

(e) An effective program has been established by the San Jose Police Department called the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to train law enforcement officers in the proper handling of persons suffering from mental illness.

~~(e)~~

(f) The pilot project created pursuant to this act is intended to address these concerns by providing regional training programs by which law enforcement officers can become familiar with the nature of mental illness, the tools and resources available for assisting ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness*, and related matters.

13721. The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall establish a pilot project based on the Crisis Intervention Team program of the San Jose Police Department to accomplish the following goals:

1 (a) Reduce the number of ~~mentally ill persons~~ *persons*
2 *with mental illness* in custody.

3 (b) Decrease the number of ~~mentally ill persons~~
4 *persons with mental illness* placed into emergency
5 commitment custody.

6 (c) Provide better training and education for law
7 enforcement officers and dispatchers regarding mental
8 illness.

9 (d) Decrease the use of force during crisis events
10 involving ~~the mentally ill~~ *persons with mental illness*.

11 (e) Reduce the number of injuries to both ~~the~~
12 ~~mentally ill persons with mental illness~~ and to law
13 enforcement officers.

14 (f) Improve interaction between law enforcement
15 agencies and mental health service providers.

16 13722. Crisis Intervention Teams shall be established
17 and funded pursuant to this chapter in the County of Los
18 Angeles and in a county to be located within the ~~Central~~
19 *San Joaquin Valley* of California, and the Crisis
20 Intervention Team program located in the City of San
21 Jose shall also be eligible to receive funding under this
22 chapter. Crisis Intervention Teams receiving funding
23 pursuant to this pilot project shall do all of the following:

24 (a) Establish a training program *to be offered four*
25 *times per year* where patrol officers and public safety
26 dispatchers ~~shall~~ *may* attend a 40-hour curriculum under
27 the instructional supervision of mental health
28 professionals, family advocates, and mental health
29 consumer groups. *This training may be in modular*
30 *configurations that allow for the development of*
31 *scenarios to simulate actual situations. Training may be*
32 *made available during the recruiting or initial training*
33 *phase of a law enforcement officer or public safety*
34 *dispatcher and training may also be made available*
35 *throughout his or her career.*

36 (b) Recruit ~~instructors~~ *mental health professionals*
37 from local hospitals, mental health advocacy groups,
38 community agencies, and private mental health
39 providers with experience in the assessment and
40 treatment of ~~—mentally ill persons~~ *persons with mental*

1 *illness, as well as city attorneys and tactics trainers, to*
2 *provide the instruction component of the training*
3 *program.*

4 (c) Require instructors to complete ride-alongs with
5 patrol officers and sit-alongs with public safety
6 dispatchers to better understand police operations.

7 (d) *The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall*
8 *encourage law enforcement agencies that are, as part of*
9 *this pilot program, actively involved in providing training*
10 *for the proper handling of persons with developmental*
11 *disabilities and mental illness, to coordinate their efforts*
12 *in order to ensure consistency of training.*

13 (e) *The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall*
14 *evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot program and shall*
15 *submit a report on its findings to the Legislature no later*
16 *than January 1, 2003.*

17 13723. Completion of the training course authorized
18 under this section shall satisfy the training requirements
19 of Section 13519.2.

20 13724. Establishment of the Crisis Intervention Team
21 pilot project authorized pursuant to this chapter shall be
22 subject to an appropriation by the Legislature.

23 13725. This chapter shall remain in effect only until
24 January 1, 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a
25 later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1,
26 2004, deletes or extends that date.

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28 CORRECTIONS

29 **Text — Pages 3 and 4.**

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